

Controversies Developing—

Park Funds Requested

5 FEB 2 1970

By J. BLAINE AKERS
Star Staff Writer

Problems with parking and public parks were posed Thursday night at a Terre Haute City Council public hearing.

Councilmen meet the first Thursday of each month to discuss legislation to be acted on at the regular council meeting which is conducted on the second Thursday of the month.

The issue of public parks produced considerable comment Thursday evening when councilmen discussed a \$152,000 appropriation request for materials and equipment for city parks.

Pat Dougherty, city park superintendent, said the funding request was for items cut from his annual budget. The items included gravel, sand, lawn mowers, department vehicles and miscellaneous equipment.

Councilman Pete Chalos asked Dougherty if a portion of the money

was to be used to purchase property in the Highland area on the city's northside. Dougherty said "no." Chalos then asked him what money was to be used to buy the property. Dougherty said funds donated recently by Anaconda Industries would be used to buy the property.

Chalos asked, "Why did the city announce the development of a park in Highland when the city hadn't even purchased the property?"

Dougherty promptly replied, "You can't buy property until you have the money; we didn't have the money until Anaconda gave it to us."

The Star has learned property owners are not willing to sell the lots in Highland for a neighborhood park, although the city administration announced last month the park would be located at 14½ Street and Lee Avenue. Property owners contend the park would promote additional problems in the neighborhood.

Councilmen once again will tackle the problem of downtown parking since an ordinance to increase the overtime parking fine from one dollar to three dollars has been introduced. Councilmen Chalos and Bill Jarvis spoke out against the bill, while Larry Kirchner suggested the city remove parking meters on a "trial basis." Kirchner said he would like to see meters removed and establish a no parking zone downtown between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. to provide time for city street crews to sweep the street. The no parking recommendation also would keep downtown merchants from parking in front of stores.

Gene Trummel said "enforcement" is the key factor in solving the parking problem. "It makes no difference whether we keep or remove parking meters; it will only work if we enforce the ordinance," said Trummel who agreed the parking fine should be increased to at least three dollars.

Parks & Recreation 1/14/79
**Survey Planned
To Determine
Need For Park**

Representatives of the Highland Neighborhood Association said they would conduct a door-to-door survey to determine needs of a proposed neighborhood park in the northern part of the city.

"Citizens Action neighborhood leaders in Terre Town and the Near Northside areas have reported safety around small neighborhood parks can be a problem. We've got a city-wide concern here that cannot be ignored," said Mrs. Vada Snoddy, Highland Neighborhood Association spokesman.

Recently, the city administration announced the proposed development of a neighborhood park in Highland. City officials said they propose to build a park at 14½ Street and Lee Avenue.

Gerald Loudermilk, owner of the property proposed to be developed into a park, said city officials have not talked to him regarding purchasing the property. Loudermilk said he and adjacent property owners are opposed to the neighborhood park because it will breed problems of vandalism.

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Local officials cite damage to parks by off the road two-wheel vehicles

T AUG 17 1976

T AUG 17 1979

By CHARLES J. MALOOF
Tribune Staff Writer

Problems with off the road two-wheel vehicles doing damage to area parks and golf courses have surfaced during the spring and summer months, according to local park officials.

Terre Haute City Parks and Recreation Superintendent Pat Dougherty has been concerned with children riding their two-wheel off road motorbikes in the city's parks.

He said Deming and Collett parks suffered deep ruts, especially in the spring and during the recent heavy rainfall, due to the manner in which the bikes were being handled by the youngsters.

Erosion to the ground is now appearing, it was pointed out, because of racing and careless driving of the two-wheelers.

Dougherty mentioned that prior to the opening of the golf season at Hulman Links, someone had driven a motorcycle over the No. 7 and 8 greens at the course causing thousands of dollars worth of damage. The cost of repairs at the facility was paid by the city, he said, since the vandal was not apprehended.

Those that are arrested in the act will have to pay damages and face prosecution, and parents of children caught will be held responsible for

their actions, emphasized Dougherty.

Vigo County Park Superintendent Keith Ruble believes if more people are arrested after committing an act of destruction the problem will lessen considerably.

Motorbikes have appeared on horse trails at Fowler Park and Prairie Creek Park and this is prohibited, Ruble stated.

In addition to soil erosion damage, he said wildlife in the park's wooded areas become frightened by motorbikes and could be injured while in flight.

Ruble also was concerned with the safety of a bike rider who might be hurt if traveling over an area of a park not familiar to him or her, with a blind spot particularly dangerous.

Both superintendents agreed that a place for motorbikes should be established, but the question of where the designated area would be located posed the biggest problem.

Also, they said there is no problem at present with four-wheel drive vehicles causing damage to parks, but this might change with the arrival of colder weather.

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Budget Problems Arise

S AUG 17 1979

By J. BLAINE AKERS
Star Staff Writer

What if the city council had a budget hearing and nobody came to hear how the city plans to spend \$12.5 million in 1980?

It almost happened Thursday night when the council conducted its business in front of an audience of five residents and the local news media. The poor turnout might be blamed on public apathy, but the actual problem was that the majority of the councilmen didn't know the budget was to be discussed until a few minutes before the meeting began.

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An apologetic Larry Kirchner, vice president of the council who chaired the meeting, said he was led to believe the sole purpose of the meeting was to discuss proposed uses of federal revenue sharing funds included in the 1980 city budget. Kirchner learned the council was to discuss the entire budget after he read a public notice taped to an office door outside the City Hall Courtroom.

Kirchner had not been given a copy of the budget until a couple of minutes before the meeting. He said he had not been personally instructed by the city controller or the mayor about "discussing" the budget Thursday night and, in fact, had told the news media earlier this week the meeting was just to discuss the planned uses of federal revenue money next year.

"If I had known it was going to be like this I would have not called this meeting tonight (Thursday)," apologized Kirchner to the persons attending the brief session.

The council did announce the proposed amounts to be spent by each city department, but did not dwell on individual budgetary items. Kirchner assured those persons in attendance the council would conduct "budget hearings" with each department head before the council votes on the budget Aug. 27.

The five councilmen present — Ken Thomas, Norma Spork, Pete Chalos, Bill Jarvis and Kirchner — did elaborate on planned uses of federal revenue sharing funds. Most of the federal revenue funds for 1980 have been "committed" for salary increases for policemen, firemen and other city employees. Other proposed uses outlined in the budget are for salaries of police radio operators, two police records room clerks, 65 adult school crossing guards, a police legal advisor and a secretary, a police analyst and a secretary, a police analyst clerk, and a juvenile counselor and a secretary.

Also, funds have been set aside for social security, public employee retirement fund and an infant feeding program. The city is expected to receive more than \$1 million in federal revenue funds and almost all that amount has already been committed, city officials said.

Many of the persons at the Thursday night meeting were critical of the

mayor and city controller for not attending the council session. Councilmen said they could not mandate anyone to attend meetings, but said they would immediately contact the city controller and city department heads about questions concerning the budget.

Council 'Reminded' To Expand Facilities

S AUG 17 1979

By J. BLAINE AKERS
Star Staff Writer

A woman who has been after city officials to expand recreational activities at Hulman Links again reminded city councilmen of the matter at Thursday's city council budget hearing.

Margaret Dyer, 140 Hamilton Drive, told councilmen the city needs to develop other forms of recreation, particularly swimming, at the Hulman Links property in Lost Creek.

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"We have a tremendous capital investment at Hulman Links, but it's one-sided. The city needs to do something for people other than golfers," said Mrs. Dyer.

She said the city could match federal revenue sharing funds with profits earned at the golf course to pay for the costs of expanding recreational activities there. Councilmen told her much of the \$1,015,000 in revenue sharing money already has been committed to other programs and salary raises for city employees in 1980.

Mrs. Dyer, who has attended many council meetings over the past few years, believes the city also should spend money to increase the hours local pools are open to the public.

"There are many people who work

late into the afternoon and cannot make it to the pools during regular hours. Also, there are families who have picnics in the evening at parks and I'm sure they would like to swim in the pools, too," she said.

Despite the fact the council still doesn't know exactly how much money the city will have to spend in 1980, it's apparent about \$400,000 will have to be trimmed from the proposed \$12.5 million budget. According to state statute, the city cannot increase its tax levy in 1980 and must depend on increased tax revenue from new property assessments to cover the costs of inflation.

As proposed the budget estimates are:

- General Fund: \$7,768,828.
- Motor Vehicle Highway Fund: \$1,049,292.
- Parking Meter Fund: \$56,768.
- Revenue Sharing: \$769,136.
- Park and Recreation Fund: \$883,414.
- Police Pension Fund: \$730,828.
- Fire Pension Fund: \$997,251.
- Cemetery Fund: \$260,480.

City councilmen said Thursday night they would soon be meeting with all department heads and elected city officials to discuss the budget and make necessary cuts. It is hopeful hearings with department heads will be open to interested taxpayers. The council votes on the budget Aug. 27.

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Park & Recreation (Vigo)

Cabin Fever: Vigo Park Head Has It

AUG 25 1979

Editor's Note: Keith Ruble is superintendent of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department.

By JAN CARROLL
Associated Press Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — With the rhythmic swing of his ax, Keith Ruble chips away at the past surrounding the centuries-old art of building a log cabin.

Aided by a handful of other young men, the 32-year-old Ruble is constructing a home similar to one built in the 1700s when Indiana was part of the vast American wilderness.

Everything is historically authentic about the construction, from the hand-hewn logs to the horsehair and mud mixture used to fill the spaces between them — except for the location. This cabin raising is taking place inside the confines of the Pioneer Building at the Indiana State Fair.

"Years ago, you could build a home like this in two or three days," said Ruble, gesturing toward the primitive-looking structure.

This one is taking a bit longer — the cabin has been under construction for three years.

But Ruble assures that it's not as bad as it sounds. Work is done only during the 11 days each year the fair is open. And the work is difficult and unfamiliar to a generation of Hoosiers who were raised on power saws and pre-cut lumber.

"One hundred fifty years ago, all the men could swing an ax. Today, very few people could do this," Ruble

said, fingering his suspenders. "Hewing logs is a dying art."

In fact, Ruble has to train in order to get into shape for his construction duties at the fair.

"You may swing an ax 200-300 times just on one log, so you've got to be in shape. I run about two miles a day to get ready for it," he said.

A two-mule team drags in the logs of tulip poplar, "one of the main species of trees used to build log homes," he said.

Hewing logs, instead of leaving them round, makes them more resistant to rain, Ruble explained.

"The whole reason for hewing the logs is so water will run off the face of the log. Otherwise, it might collect and cause the wood to rot," he said.

No nails are used in the cabin, which is built upon a foundation of sandstones. All the logs are notched and fit together in an interlocking pattern.

"These are a lot safer than houses people live in today," he said. "If a tornado ran into this wall, it wouldn't blow it apart like it would in a modern house. It would just roll the whole thing over on its side."

True to history, there are no windows in this cabin. Frigid Indiana winters coupled with the rarity and expense of glass made them impractical, he said.

"In cabins that did have windows, they were usually covered with a rag smeared with bear grease," he said.

When the cabin is complete — Ruble said it will probably be next year — it will remain in the Pioneer Building as a museum piece.

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HEWING LOGS — Keith Ruble, 32, Terre Haute, hews a log which will be used in constructing the partially-completed log cabin at the Pioneer Building at the Indiana State Fair Friday. Ruble says he runs about two miles a day to get in shape to work on the log cabin each year at the fair. Ruble is superintendent of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department.

**Redevelopment Commission Sp. OCT 20 1979
approves restrooms** *Parks & Recreation (V)*

The Redevelopment Commission, at a special meeting last Friday, approved plans drawn by architect John Curry for five neighborhood park structures. Each building will contain restroom facilities located inside and picnic facilities backing up to the enclosure, under an attached shelter.

The restroom-shelter facilities, which will also contain storage, electric outlets and picnic tables, are to be built in Voorhees, Thompson, Rose Herz, Memorial and Sheridan parks. They are funded with community development money and are to cost about \$150,000.

This project has been worked out in conjunction with Pat Dougherty, city park superintendent, and Mayor Bill Brighton. Bob Payne, redevelopment director, said last week, "The mayor wants these under construction by Dec. 1."

It is expected that bids will be advertised the end of October and received early in November, in order to meet this deadline.

Each structure will have 1,050 square feet under a roof. To cut down on vandalism, restrooms will face the street and will have security doors that are locked when attendants are not on duty in the park. Board member Elizabeth Reifsnyder voiced grave concern over the close linkage of restrooms and picnic areas.

"No one would want to picnic near the park restrooms I've been in. Why put up a structure that won't be used?" she asked. "I don't know if we can make these better than undesirable."

Dougherty and Curry said if odors become a problem the restrooms can be ventilated. "Any restroom takes surveillance," Dougherty said, and added they would have janitorial service, would be drained each fall, and would be locked after dark and when no one was on duty.

Dougherty also said the shelter areas and electric outlets are needed for the department's arts and crafts program. Plans include several separate electrical circuits so that some power may be turned off when supervision is not present.

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County park area survey brings 'positive findings'

Ts Nov 2 1979

Community Affairs File

Parks & Recreation - Vigo

By CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune-Star Writer

Are county parks good neighbors? The Vigo County Park and Recreation Board decided several months ago to try and find out the attitudes of the people who live in the vicinity of the county's two largest parks, Fowler and Prairie Creek.

Results of a survey involving 106 families who live within a two-mile radius of both parks have been compiled, and will be presented to the County Park Board Monday by Max G. Miller, president.

"The findings are more positive than I thought," Miller commented.

The idea for the "knock on door" survey stemmed from an informal report of residents' feelings about county parks presented by Keith Ruble, county park and recreation superintendent. Generally, the responses were almost all positive, Ruble found.

The board then arranged for the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service to conduct a more formal poll to see how good a job people think the park department is doing with its existing parks.

Area Extension Agent Carl Isaacs handled the survey, which evaluated local residents' observations, attitudes, ideas and general feelings toward Fowler and Prairie Creek Parks.

Respondents were asked 24 questions, some of which required them to indicate the degree of agreement or disagreement.

Such information will help the

county park department in making decisions about providing recreational and educational facilities for the people of Vigo County.

"In working toward this goal, it is necessary for the Park and Recreation Department to evaluate their efforts when and where possible, and make changes if needed," Miller said.

While Miller said he was encouraged by the survey results, he noted that the number of participants was small compared to the number of people who live in the county, and that the results may not totally represent the views of the county as

a whole.

The park board president commented that the park department is sensitive to criticism and strives to keep the parks clean and well-maintained at all times.

Detailed results of the survey will be presented at the Park Board's meeting at 4 p.m. Monday at the American Red Cross Building.

Respondents from both Fowler and Prairie Creek neighborhoods agreed that if park and recreation budgets have to be cut because of conditions, they should be cut the same percentage as other government functions

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Dougherty views park funding

Parks & Recreation (Vigo)
NOV 10 1979

The Park and Recreation Department did not apply for a federal grant this year to renovate Fairbanks Park and the Girls Club building, 1107 S. Fourth St., according to Patrick Dougherty, superintendent of the department.

Earlier this year consideration had been given to seeking money from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, division of the federal Department of the Interior.

Dougherty said he did not apply for the money this year because Terre Haute's chances for the funds were "nil."

If the city had applied for the money a plan would have to have been submitted committing the city to increments of action on the proposed renovation for the next five years, Dougherty said.

The superintendent said that since the chances for the funding were slim, he did not think it was proper to the incoming administration to be committed to a five-year plan it had nothing to do with. Consideration of the application was made this summer, after incumbent Mayor William J. Brighton was defeated in the spring primary. A new park superintendent is expected to be appointed for January by mayor-elect Pete Chalos.

When the application was first considered, it was reported \$150 million was available nationally and Terre Haute had a good chance of funding, Dougherty said. However, that amount was cut to \$20 million nationally and most of it was going to larger urban areas, he explained.

The program supplies 70 percent of a project cost and it has to be matched by 30 percent locally.

Dougherty said that just because the city did not apply this year does not mean it cannot apply next year. He said a workshop on the program is scheduled for December and a local park department staff member will be in attendance.

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